

Rhodora

JOURNAL OF

THE NEW ENGLAND BOTANICAL CLUB

Vol. 36.

September, 1934.

No. 429.

BOTANICAL NOTES

IVAR TIDESTROM

ACONITUM LUTESCENS A. Nels., Bot. Gaz. 42: 51. 1906. When the Flora of Utah and Nevada was in preparation, this species presented some difficulties. First of all, there was scarcely any material in our herbaria to support the validity of the species; secondly, the material at hand resembled too much that of *Aconitum columbianum* Nutt. Yet the writer included it in the flora as a full fledged species, hoping later to be able to clear the status of the "species." During the last three years the active field workers of the Forest Service have forwarded to Washington for determination a number of specimens which would naturally be referred to *Aconitum lutescens* except for other characters interfering. Our two most common species in the Rocky Mountain region are: *A. columbianum* and *A. bakeri*. These two species differ principally as follows:

Front line of hood nearly straight, the beak more or less prominent.....	<i>A. columbianum</i> .
Front line of hood curved, the beak nearly horizontal.....	<i>A. bakeri</i> .

The material forwarded by the Forest Service falls into these categories. That is, the material of *A. lutescens* with a straight beak agrees in all particulars with *A. columbianum* except as to the color of the flowers. A like condition exists in respect to *A. bakeri*. The writer is therefore inclined to place the material with ochroleucous flowers in these two groups respectively. Let us see how the species in the sister genera, *Delphinium* and *Aquilegia* behave with respect to variations in the color of their flowers.

The writer has been acquainted with *AQUILEGIA VULGARIS* L. since early boyhood. In 1894, he observed this species in the pastures of his home region. Within seeing distance he observed specimens with blue, pink or white flowers. This variation in color in species of *Aquilegia* had been observed by botanical writers long before the time of Linnaeus. Both Carl Hartman and Professor Lindman, not mentioning a host of others, maintain this view. Hartman does not evidently consider the variation in color of this species as any departure from the accepted concept of the species. On the other hand, he states: "*Var. med hårig stjelk*" which, translated into English, means "varying with hairy stalks." In the case of *Aquilegia caerulea albiflora* A. Gray, there are other characters besides that of color which entitle this form to varietal rank.

DELPHINIUM BARBEYI Huth is a second example of variation in color only. The writer, while riding over large forest areas in the Rocky Mountain region, has observed plants with pink or white flowers amid a "veritable sea of purple-blue-flowered individuals." As much as ten acres in extent may be seen adorning the high plateau of the Wasatch Mountains in central Utah, here and there and with scarcely a handful of pink or white-flowered specimens among these on any one area. Most of the species of *Delphinium* growing in France present variations in color similar to those existing in *Delphinium barbeyi* and other larkspurs of our own country. It is evident, therefore, that botanists generally do not consider color variation in the three sister-genera as of specific importance and, unless these variations are accompanied by other and real botanical characters, they are never considered as varietal determinants by field botanists.

LATHYRUS POLYMORPHUS Nutt. Gen. Pl. 2: 97. 1818. Nuttall described this species and gave as synonyms *Lathyrus decaphyllus* Pursh and *Vicia stipulacea* of the same author. He discarded the names of Pursh as being "inexpressive and deceptive." In their "Studies in certain North America Species of *Lathyrus*"¹ Butters and St. John discuss the somewhat involved case of *Lathyrus polymorphus*. They also refer Pursh's species *Vicia stipulacea* to the Nuttallian name, but they insist on taking up Pursh's descriptive adjective "stipulaceus" and bring the species under the name *Lathyrus stipulaceus* (Pursh) Butters & St. John.

¹ RHODORA 19: 156. 1917.

In 1819, Dr. Torrey published his Catalogue of Plants,¹ wherein *Lathyrus stipulaceus* Leconte is described (p. 92). Dr. Torrey later reduced this species to a synonym of *L. myrtifolius* Muhl. (*L. palustris myrtifolius* (Muhl.) Gray).

In 1828, Dr. Torrey published "Some Accounts of a Collection of Plants made during a journey to and from the Rocky Mountains" . . . by Edwin P. James² wherein an account is given of two species of *Lathyrus* collected by Dr. James, U. S. A. Torrey calls one of them *Lathyrus polymorphus* Nutt., giving as synonyms *L. decaphyllus* and *Vicia stipulacea*. The other species described is given the name *Lathyrus myrtifolius* Muhl. In 1838,³ Torrey and Gray published another Nuttallian species, *Lathyrus ornatus*, and gave as a synonym *L. polymorphus* Nutt. (including *L. decaphyllus* as a synonym). In this later publication Torrey and Gray have *Lathyrus polymorphus* Nutt. follow *L. ornatus*, while *Vicia stipulacea* Pursh appears again as a straight synonym under *L. polymorphus* Nutt. Torrey and Gray kept *L. ornatus* Nutt. and *L. polymorphus* Nutt. distinct, the former being published here for the first time. Butters and St. John, who combine the two species of Nuttall, give the following: Mr. Bayard Long, after comparing the type specimens of *Vicia stipulacea* Pursh and *Lathyrus ornatus* Nutt. in the herbarium of the Philadelphia Academy, reports to us, "I should say that they are unquestionably identical." Rydberg, in his new Flora of the Prairies and Plains of Central North America, has accepted the name *Lathyrus stipulaceus* (Pursh) Butters & St. John, citing *L. ornatus* Nutt. as a synonym, but does not mention *L. polymorphus* Nutt.

Under the Vienna Code the name *Lathyrus stipulaceus* (Pursh) Butters & St. John is valid for the plants in question. Under the American Code as well as under the International Code of 1930, a homonym of later date is inadmissible and *Vicia stipulacea* Pursh should properly be referred to *Lathyrus polymorphus* Nutt.

RANGE EXTENSION OF TWO PLANT IMMIGRANTS. A great number of European plants are now adventive and established within the limits of the United States. Long before the establishment of a "pure seed policy," seeds of many of our European weeds came in with grain, in emballage and by other means, and have become fully established and listed in nearly all of our floras. Of these immigrants, CONIUM

¹ Catalogue of Plants of New York.

² Ann. Lyc. N. Y. 2: 180. 1828.

³ Torrey & Gray, Fl. N. Amer. 1: 277. 1838.

MACULATUM L. and DIPLLOTAXIS TENUIFOLIA (L.) DC. deserve some mention. Both species have been listed in the floras of the Eastern states for many years, and both have appeared on the Pacific Coast for some time. *Conium maculatum* was recorded from California by Brewer & Watson in Botany of California (1: 258. 1876) as "sparingly introduced in waste places in the neighborhood of the older towns." Jepson reports it as "widely distributed" (Manual of Flowering Plants of California 706. 1925). The writer collected the species at Carson City, Nevada, in 1919 (*Tidestrom* 10,215). Since that time the species has been discovered in Colorado. Mr. L. C. Shoemaker of Forest Service collected *Conium maculatum* on the Holy Cross National Forest, November 8, 1931, at an elevation of 2,400 meters.

DIPLLOTAXIS TENUIFOLIA (L.) DC. is another species with a history of migration similar to that of *Conium maculatum*. Long established in eastern North America from Canada to Alabama, it has also been recorded from Pasadena and Santa Ana, California. On April 25, 1930, Forest Ranger A. M. Cusick collected the species (U. S. For. Serv. 65,457) on Lemhi National Forest, Custer County, Idaho, at an elevation of 1,500 meters. The illustration of the species given by Bonnier (Flore de France, Suisse et Belgique 1: pl. 32. f. 139) applies well to the Idaho specimen. Generally *D. tenuifolia* is glabrous, but occasionally specimens with simple or branched hairs have been observed, as in the case of *D. muralis*. Our California specimens are glabrous. Some of the specimens from the Eastern States are sparingly hirsute as in the Idaho specimen. The variation in the species as to pubescence was noted by Bonnier, who describes the leaves as "*un peu glauque, sans poils ou presque sans poils.*"

LANGLOIS HERBARIUM,
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA,
Washington, D. C.

POTOMOGETON PANORMITANUS IN THE SUDBURY RIVER.—Collecting *Potamogeton* is a diversion from which the average amateur botanist at last may derive some intellectual satisfaction. Thanks to Professor Fernald's extraordinarily lucid monograph on the linear-leaved North American species,¹ there is now a good sporting chance of making

¹ Fernald: The Linear-leaved North American Species of *Potamogeton*, Section *Axillares*: Mem. Am. Acad. Arts & Sci. XVII, Part I, July 1932.